

Dicumarol is a very dangerous drug, so dangerous that controversies about it fill the medical journals. It is controversial whether it is more dangerous to use it or not to use it. You can buy dicumarol across the counter.

Remember that this same complaint could be made of insulin which can also be bought across the counter. Insulin is only half a treatment. Everyone now knows that diabetes is a disease which elevates the blood sugar. It also causes generalized vascular deteriorations. Insulin treats only the elevated blood sugar and the degenerations continue unchecked. Perhaps the best way in which I can make this clear to you is to cite a paper by Dr. Joslin of Boston, the greatest authority in the field, in which he points out that the treatment of diabetes with insulin is poor, and goes on to say: "Even if there was only one with eyes intact I would be encouraged". Would it be truthful to say that the sale of insulin lulls people into a false sense of security regarding diabetes and that while they take it, they neglect other help and deteriorate and die? Did you realize that diabetes still ranks seventh in the list of causes of death, more than thirty years after the discovery of insulin?

It is objected that vitamin E wastes money, which is a curious argument in a country which spends as much as Canada does on tobacco or movies or pleasure driving. At least everyone who uses it is eager to buy it again. These people feel they get something for their money besides a diagnosis and a warning to slow down.

It has been objected that as things now stand self-modification is dangerous. I am afraid this is just another example of a union, this time a medical union, protecting union rights. It is dreadful to think that people may have no recourse against this monopoly. We deprecate self-medication, but we suspect that people have much less to lose by self-medication than they have from no treatment at all.

There are so many ways in which I could show you what vitamin E does for heart disease but there came into my hands a week ago a dramatic example of it and perhaps I should display it here. An importer in Portugal, a man whom we know nothing about, a patient whom we have never seen, wrote us in February of 1952, asking us about the use of vitamin E for his hypertension, aortitis and myocarditis. We replied. We have heard from him about his wonderful improvement on a number of occasions. This man had been a sufferer for twelve years. A week ago he voluntarily sent us his old and recent electrocardiograms and here they are, showing what vitamin E had done to his electrocardiogram in the last six months. It is a truly remarkable exhibit as anyone can see, even someone who is not technically trained.

Perhaps you would like to see the various dangerous coloured photographs that the Vitamin E Society shows at its meetings. I have them with me and you are at perfect liberty to see them if you so desire. Many people have seen them, including the Hon. Mr. Paul Martin who was a classmate of mine at the University of Toronto and who comes from my home town, Windsor.

The Shute Foundation publishes its own medical journal twice a year.

Some 7,000 to 8,000 copies of this journal are sent to physicians all over the world who request it. But school children ask us for this material for essays, and druggists want it and pharmaceutical houses want it. Is it forbidden to distribute it to them from now on?

*Book:*

Should there ever be a book on this subject written (and there is always that possibility) would it be forbidden to sell this book in ordinary book stores, just as the amendment to the Act might forbid a manual for diabetics being sold from book store shelves?